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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
2 FEBRUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

A hassle over the separation of powers appears to be shaping up in Saigon. The constituent assembly's working draft of the new constitution is weighted in favor of a fairly strong legislature. Military leaders, on the other hand, have made it clear they want a more nearly even division of authority.

The assembly's version probably represents a maximum bargaining position from which it is likely to retreat as it dickers with Thieu and company. However, this could become one of the knottiest issues in the continuing dialogue between the government and the assembly.

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2. Soviet Union

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3. Sino-Soviet Relations

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[redacted]
[redacted] Soviet press charges that the Chinese are stepping up interference with Soviet flights to Hanoi. [redacted]

In another incident in Peking today, ten Soviet Embassy officers were taken on by the Chinese. The last word we have is that the Soviets were still being held at bay in front of the Soviet airline offices after a straight 14 hours.

We continue to believe, however, that Moscow will do everything it can to avoid being forced into making the break. 50X1

4. Communist China

Peking today claimed another pro-Mao takeover--this time in a northeast province. To us, this claim suggests that the situation there is far from settled, especially since Peking's description of the "victory" reveals that some of Mao's presumed opponents are apparently still holding key positions.

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5. Iraq

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6. Somalia

The Somalis intend to do some crash recruiting to add--hopefully by mid-March--some 3,500 bodies to their 9,000-man army.

Even if these additions materialize, the Somali Army could not fight its way out of a paper bag. Its pilots still are proficient only at cracking up their MIG fighters, while the climate and Somali "maintenance" have reduced most of its Soviet tanks and other mechanized equipment to useless hulks.

However, Haile Selassie will use news of the build-up to push even harder for increased US military aid during his visit.

7. Nigeria

The afterglow of the much publicized early January meeting of the country's top leaders is fading fast. Regional military leaders have pow-wow'd, as agreed, but they got nowhere. What is worse, personal ill feeling between Gowon and Eastern leader Ojukwu is building up again.

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